

making policy decisions to reduce delay and arrears in the system, facilitate better monitoring of court performance and systemic bottlenecks, and, thus, facilitate better resource management. The NJDG will cover all categories of cases, including those relating to juvenile justice system.

(c) The NJDG is being implemented on a pilot basis in the current financial year 2013-14.

#### **State funding of election**

3026. SHRI N. BALAGANGA : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is considering to implement the State funding of elections;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor and by when the Government is likely to take a decision in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (c) The issue of electoral reforms in its entirety, which *inter-alia* includes the funding of elections, has been referred to the Law Commission of India for its recommendations. The Law Commission had been requested to submit concrete suggestions in this regard within three months from 16th January, 2013. However, the Commission has informed that recommendations on electoral reforms would require extensive consultations within the Law Commission, other stakeholders including Election Commission and Political Parties. Hence, the recommendations of the Law Commission are yet to be received. On receipt of the recommendations, matter will be further examined in consultation with the stake holders towards a suitable decision in the matter at the earliest.

#### **Speedy trial of pending cases**

3027. SHRI B.S. GNANADESIKAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has proposed to allow States to use funds available for morning and evening courts to further increase the number of Fast Track Courts to expedite trial of pending cases particularly those of sexual assault and heinous crimes;

(b) if so, whether Government would come forward to bring more efficient work culture in the entire judicial system along with adequate appointment of judges for trial of such long pending cases; and

(c) if so, the details thereof and the action taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) :

(a) Government has approved making available upto Rs. 80 crore per annum on a matching basis upto 31/3/2015 from out of the amount allocated (Rs. 500 crore per annum) for morning/evening/shift courts in the 13th Finance Commission Award for judiciary, for meeting the expenditure on 10% additional positions of judges to be created in the State Judicial Services in pursuance of the judgement of the Supreme Court in Brij Mohan Lal case.

Government has written to the Chief Ministers of all States and Chief Justices of all High Courts to set up Fast Track Courts for concluding trial in rape cases. The States have been requested to utilize the additional positions of Judges being created in the Subordinate Judiciary in pursuance of the directions of the Supreme Court in Brij Mohan Lal case, to be funded on a matching basis by the Central and the State Governments, for this purpose.

(b) and (c) In respect of vacancies in High Courts, Government has periodically been writing to the Chief Justices of the High Courts to send proposals timely for filling the vacancies. Government has written to Chief Justices of the High Courts to invite the attention of the district judges, *inter-alia*, to the provisions in Section 309 of the Code of Criminal Procedure so that court proceedings are held on a day to day basis until all witnesses in attendance, have been examined and the adjournments are minimised.

In order to reduce pendency of cases in courts, Advisory Council of the National Mission for Justice Delivery and Legal Reforms has resolved that the overall number of judges/courts in subordinate judiciary may be increased to double the present number over a period of five (5) years with matching support from the Central and the State Governments. A comprehensive scheme of National Court Management Systems (NCMS) has been formulated and notified by the Supreme Court under which a National Framework of Court Excellence (NFCE) has been prepared, which shall set measurable standards of performance of courts addressing the issues of quality, responsiveness and timeliness. Based on the recommendation of the Advisory Committee of NCMS, the Chief Justice of India has written to the Chief Justices of High Courts for doubling

the number of Courts in subordinate Judiciary. He has urged the Chief Justices to take it up with the State Governments for providing the requisite funds for this as well as funds for infrastructure and staff.

### **Voting rights for overseas Indians**

3028. SHRIMATI JAYA BACHCHAN : Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

- (a) whether there has been demand for voting by the overseas Indians recently;
- (b) whether Government has any plan to provide voting rights to the People of Indian Origin or Non-Resident Indians (NRIs);
- (c) if so, the details thereof; and
- (d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR) : (a) to (c) Under Section 20A of the Representation of the People Act, 1950 every citizen of India:—

- (i) whose name is not included in the electoral roll;
- (ii) who has not acquired the citizenship of any other country; and
- (iii) who is absenting from his place of ordinary residence in India owing to his employment, education or otherwise outside India (whether temporarily or not),

is entitled to have his name registered in the electoral roll in the constituency in which his place of residence in India as mentioned in his passport is located. In pursuance of the said provision and rules made thereunder, Non-Resident Indians can register themselves in the electoral rolls of their constituency on the basis of self-attested copies of the Indian Passport and valid Visa submitted alongwith duly-filled FORM-6A prescribed for that purpose, subject to verification by the Electoral Registration Officer and production of original passport at the time of voting. Further, there is no proposal under consideration of the Government to provide voting rights to the People of Indian origin.

- (d) Does not arise.